

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124754  
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AGRE-00 IO-14 DHA-02  
L-03 H-02 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA-LA/CAR:WWRHODES  
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:THEAVNER  
-----311830Z 007231 /44

R 311619Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS STATE 124754

JOINT STATE/AID, SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, HA

SUBJECT:DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN HAITI: GOH RESPONSE

REFERENCE: PORT AU PRINCE 1904

1. IN A MEETING AT THE HAITIAN EMBASSY MAY 26, DEPARTMENT AND AID OFFICERS DISCUSSED CURRENT FOOD SHORTAGES AND HAITIAN RESPONSE WITH AMBASSADOR SALOMON AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE GERVAIS. MEETING TOOK PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT OF AMBASSADOR'S DECLARATION OF DISASTER RESULTING FROM FOOD AND SEED SHORTAGES (REF).

2. SALOMON REPORTED THAT 8,000 MT OF BAGGED RICE PROCURED BY GOH UNDER RECENT AMENDMENT TO PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BE SHIPPED TO HAITI DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE. LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE OPENED MAY 27. 10,000 MT OF TITLE I CORN, HOWEVER, IS PROGRAMMED FOR SHIPMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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EARLY AUGUST SINCE STORAGE FACILITIES IN PORT AU PRINCE WILL BE SATURATED EARLIER. GERVAIS EXPLAINED THAT GOH IS ORDERING TITLE I CORN IN BULK, SINCE COST OF BAGGED CORN IS DOUBLE THAT OF BULK. ALSO, GOH IS CONSTRUCTING A NEW STORAGE FACILITY AT THE MINOTERIE FLOUR MILL (NEAR PORT AU PRINCE) TO RECEIVE CORN IN BULK. THIS FACILITY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY.

3. STATE AND AID OFFICERS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT PROJECTED AUGUST ARRIVAL DATE FOR CORN IN VIEW OF FOOD SHORTAGES ANTICIPATED IN HAITI IN JUNE AND JULY. SALOMON, WHO WAS VERY COOPERATIVE IN MEETING, IMMEDIATELY OFFERED TO EXPLORE OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR SHIPMENT OF CORN, SUCH AS POSSIBLY SHIPPING SOME OF THE CORN IN BAGS TO CAP HAITIEN. ON MAY 27 HE CALLED DEPARTMENT TO REPORT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SHIP 2-3,000 TONS OF BAGGED CORN ON SAME VESSEL WHICH WILL TRANSPORT PL-480 RICE TO HAITI IN JUNE.

4. SALOMON AND GERVAIS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RICE IMPORTS. IN RECENT YEARS HAITI PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED ABOUT 5,000 MT PER YEAR WHILE CONSUMPTION ROSE ABOUT 9,000 MT ANNUALLY. MUCH OF THE INCREASE IS IN PORT AU PRINCE AREA, FUELED BY MIGRATION THERE OF RURAL POPULATION WHO PARTLY SUBSTITUTE RICE FOR THEIR FORMER DIET. ABOUT 80 OF IMPORTED REPEAT IMPORTED RICE IS SOLD IN PORT AU PRINCE AREA.

5. FROM JANUARY THROUGH APRIL OF THIS YEAR GOH IMPORTED 22,000 MT OF RICE FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES. THIS RICE IS SOLD BY THE GOH TO DISTRIBUTORS AT A PRICE SET BY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. IMPORTS ARE NOW RUNNING AT A RATE OF 50,000 MT ANNUALLY. THIS RATE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE (IN NON-DROUGHT YEARS) FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

6. GIVEN THESE CONTINUING HIGH EXPECTED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, SALOMON INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF TITLE I UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTERPART FUNDS COULD BE USED TO CONSTRUCT GRAIN STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACILITIES, INCLUDING A RICE MILL, WHICH WOULD PERMIT GOH TO IMPORT LESS EXPENSIVE PADDY (UNHULLED) RICE FOR PROCESSING IN COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR INFORMED THAT TITLE I FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR GRAIN STORAGE CONSTRUCTION. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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